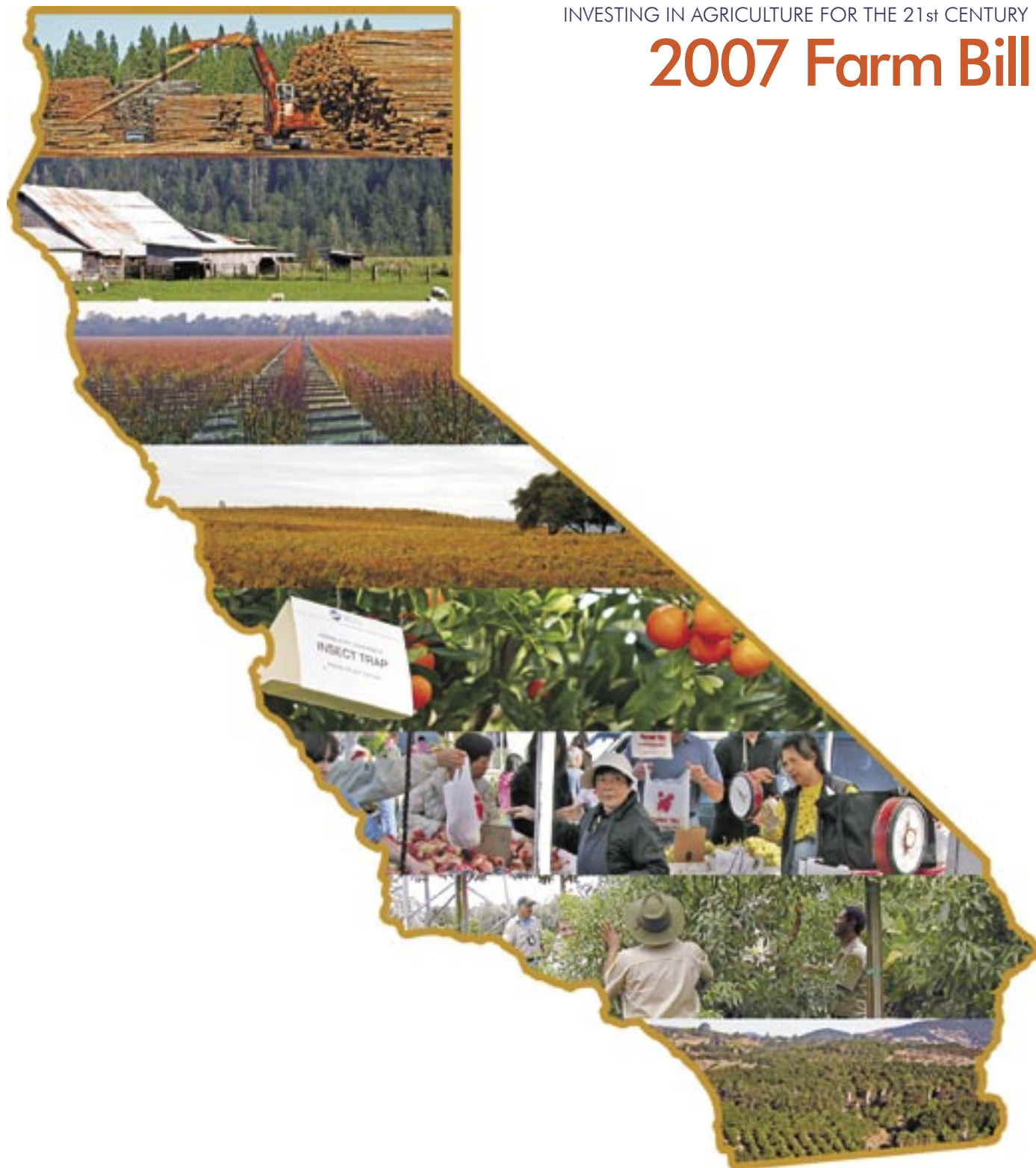


INVESTING IN AGRICULTURE FOR THE 21st CENTURY

2007 Farm Bill



THE CALIFORNIA PERSPECTIVE

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



2007 Farm Bill Recommendations

COMMODITIES

California Recommends:

- Maintain a strategic food and fiber economy for the United States by strengthening and adapting domestic farm programs that also help maintain the competitiveness of U.S. agriculture.
- Maintain an effective safety net for farmers by providing adequate funding for commodity programs.

PLANT AND ANIMAL HEALTH

California Recommends:

- Implement domestic pest and disease detection and surveillance activities at the local level by providing funding to states/localities to develop and/or maintain domestic surveillance and pest detection activities.
- Fully fund research for, and implementation of, the Pierce's Disease Control Program and ensure that it is part of the future baseline of the United States Department of Agriculture-Animal Plant Health Inspection Service budget for eradication and other invasive pest strategies.
- Provide dedicated food safety funding to land grant and state universities to provide for research to reduce the risk of contamination of fresh produce, including leafy greens, from human, livestock and environmental sources.
- Support California's Mediterranean Fruit Fly (Medfly) Preventative Release Program with funding to construct and maintain rearing facilities for sterile Medflies in economically and politically stable locations agreed upon by the California Department of Food and Agriculture and USDA/Animal Plant Health Inspection Services-Plant Protection and Quality.
- Target funding sent to the Department of Homeland Security to enhance agricultural inspection processes under the Customs and Border Protection Division, formerly in the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). We highly recommend that USDA, APHIS and U.S. Customs and Border Protection re-establish inspection and pest and disease prevention effectiveness on our borders.
- Provide dedicated funding to states to safeguard agriculture and the food system through a program modeled after the State Bio-terrorism Preparedness program currently administered by Centers for Disease Control and Inspection.
- Provide coordination, outreach, and technical assistance funding that assures safe disposal of animal (livestock and poultry) carcasses, including development of alternative uses for low-value rendering by-products.
- Fund the Veterinary Workforce Enhancement Act to meet the nation's critical need for veterinarians engaged in public practice.

SPECIALTY CROPS

California Recommends:

- Increase funding and create a permanent allocation for the Specialty Crop Competitiveness Act of 2004 to ensure an abundant and affordable supply of fruits, vegetables and other specialty crops for consumers. In developing criteria for allocations of block grant funding to states, caps on state allocations should be eliminated and allocations should be based on specialty crop production formulas.
- Planting flexibility provisions should include restrictions on the planting of specialty crops to avoid price destabilization of the specialty crop market.

ENERGY

California Recommends:

- Provide funding for a national framework that mandates America's farms, forests and ranches provide 25 percent, or more, of the total energy consumed in the United States by 2025.
- Increase incentives and provide more funding for research and distribution/transmission infrastructures that capitalize upon agriculture as an energy source.
- Fund research, development, and demonstration of emerging technologies for agricultural and forestry energy production.
- Fund rural development initiatives that support planning, construction and operation of regional biomass energy processing facilities that also provide other resource management benefits such as water supply and quality improvements.
- Establish an agricultural biomass refinery program that will fund construction and operation of pilot plants to produce energy from agricultural crops and residuals recognizing regional differences in the types of residuals available.

NUTRITION

California Recommends:

- Increase funding for USDA's Fruit and Vegetable Pilot Program to expand the program to all schools nationwide.
- Revise the current Food Stamp Nutrition Education guidelines to focus appropriately on the most effective and scientifically proven approaches and interventions to drive behavior and social environmental changes.
- Revise all relevant nutrition programs in the 2007 farm bill to align with the 2005 Dietary Guidelines for Americans. Promote balanced dietary choices that include nutrient-dense foods such as dairy products which are important contributors to child and adult health.
- Streamline and further reform the Food Stamp Program to reduce complexity, improve access, and provide states with needed flexibility.

“... and so the Farm Bill is not a cost to society, it’s an investment. It’s an investment process that this nation makes every several years in its agricultural future, in its fuel future, in its conservation and resource future, in its nutrition future and in its infrastructure future. And whether it’s levees or research, healthy bodies or healthy forests, investment means you get something back.”

SECRETARY A.G. KAWAMURA

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF FOOD & AGRICULTURE

- Expand and further fund the WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Act and the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program.

TRADE

California Recommends:

- Increase funding of market development programs such as the Foreign Market Development Program, the Market Access Program, Technical Assistance for Specialty Crops and the Emerging Markets Program.
- Keep U.S. agriculture competitive through support of the USDA Foreign Agricultural Service, Agricultural Trade Offices. These are the only federal trade services available to California farmers, ranchers and producers.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

California Recommends:

- Invest in our environmental infrastructure, specifically by funding water conservation, storage and flood water management programs.
- Establish and fund Career Technical Agricultural Education programs at the high school and junior colleges to ensure the continuation of a highly technical and productive workforce.
- Fund initiatives that improve rural infrastructure in production, distribution and transmission of renewable fuels and electricity.
- Fund Round IV of the Community Empowerment Program and define the eight counties of the San Joaquin Valley (Fresno, Kern, Kings, Madera, Merced, San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Tulare) as a Rural Empowerment Zone.
- Conduct a national study of rural transportation and communication needs for the 21st century.
- Support the Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development Program to enhance the rural economy by assisting young farmers and ranchers to enter into the industry.
- Fund targeted investment in freight infrastructure, specifically the network of highways used to deliver perishable goods. This network benefits the rural economy and the farm industry. Since nationally, 95 percent of perishable product movement is by truck, supporting highway infrastructure is critical.

RESEARCH

California Recommends:

- Increase funding to land grant and state universities to provide for research on practices, technologies and approaches that will help farmers and ranchers meet targets in regards to environmental mandates.

- Increase funding to the University of California Cooperative Extension to assist farmers and ranchers in implementing cost effective environmental and agricultural practices and meeting future targets in regards to water and air quality as set by land grant and state university research.
- Establish and fund a U.S. Food and Drug Administration Center for Excellence and Food Safety in California to enhance food safety and security for the state and nation. This would be the only center in the western states to address food safety and security research.

CONSERVATION

California Recommends:

- Reauthorize and expand funding for all conservation programs as a strategic investment in our nation’s agricultural infrastructure.
- Through new and existing conservation programs, target California’s priority conservation challenges: loss of agricultural land due to land subdivision and urban development; spread of invasive species; air and water pollution; loss and degradation of wildlife habitat; declining forest and rangeland health; floodplain protection; and, greenhouse gas emissions.
- Expand and improve the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) to better address local and statewide needs. In particular, continue the commitment to improving air and water quality and elevate the priority of invasive species eradication.
- Protect working farm, ranch and forest lands by expanding funding and flexibility for the Farm and Ranch Land Protection, Grasslands Reserve and Forest Legacy Programs.
- Enhance and expand funding for green payment programs, including but not limited to the Conservation Security Program, that provide financial assistance to landowners to improve environmental quality.
- Increase outreach and technical assistance funding to more effectively deliver and target conservation programs at the local level. Enhance availability of technical assistance by bolstering partnerships with cooperating organizations and agencies.
- Increase opportunities for landowners to integrate habitat restoration with agricultural activities by enhancing the Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP), and improving the synergies between voluntary federal, state, and private habitat enhancement programs.
- Rebalance conservation and environmental payments nationally to reflect needs in strategic agricultural production areas of the nation where conservation and environmental threats are most severe.
- Simplify the conservation application process to make it easier for farmers and ranchers to participate in the current programs.

ANALYZING THE NATION'S INVESTMENT IN CALIFORNIA AGRICULTURE

STATES RANKED BY VALUE OF 2005 AG PRODUCTION 2005 SUBSIDIES

California	\$33,788,542,000	\$649,414,668
Texas	19,918,340,000	1,973,981,407
Iowa	16,103,763,000	2,240,834,615
Nebraska	12,968,058,000	1,388,404,035
Kansas	11,378,534,000	1,056,866,760
Minnesota	11,015,559,000	1,356,036,765
North Carolina	9,984,009,000	386,282,953
Illinois	9,013,978,000	1,750,242,282
Wisconsin	8,257,964,000	553,230,061
Florida	8,214,722,000	392,666,094
Georgia	7,171,044,000	482,061,943
Arkansas	6,890,826,000	506,821,635
Washington	6,590,427,000	219,990,465
Missouri	6,571,777,000	645,191,940
Ohio	6,506,334,000	571,541,798
Indiana	6,368,953,000	871,930,601
Colorado	6,346,444,000	356,574,270
Oklahoma	6,155,518,000	295,324,835
South Dakota	5,613,545,000	795,996,011
Pennsylvania	5,527,315,000	129,874,245
Kentucky	5,232,039,000	214,868,926
Michigan	5,163,719,000	366,944,868
Idaho	5,008,579,000	176,322,036
Alabama	4,904,612,000	241,070,529
Mississippi	4,731,209,000	754,620,306
Oregon	4,725,064,000	86,420,062
North Dakota	4,601,620,000	813,088,688
New York	4,046,291,000	134,137,111
Virginia	3,574,027,000	112,089,153
Arizona	3,536,707,000	116,859,019
Tennessee	3,413,069,000	250,218,272
Montana	2,887,259,000	354,034,399
New Mexico	2,865,032,000	99,799,894
Louisiana	2,454,209,000	305,161,254
South Carolina	2,116,275,000	116,408,116
Maryland	2,101,443,000	73,129,654
Utah	1,552,969,000	41,078,330
Wyoming	1,282,839,000	63,611,078
Delaware	1,236,185,000	22,596,319
New Jersey	1,018,930,000	15,099,399
Vermont	650,498,000	17,054,276
Hawaii	636,047,000	3,453,723
West Virginia	621,394,000	8,192,589
Connecticut	618,001,000	7,533,774
Maine	617,361,000	16,780,170
Nevada	560,455,000	8,434,990
Massachusetts	550,845,000	7,881,219
New Hampshire	212,506,000	2,393,852
Rhode Island	82,501,000	547,745
Alaska	58,471,000	3,773,226

TOP 10 CALIFORNIA COUNTIES: AGRICULTURAL VALUE 2005 SUBSIDIES

Fresno	\$4,604,139,000	\$61,205,813
Tulare	4,037,351,000	43,305,388
Kern	3,213,846,000	51,921,042
Monterey	3,090,000,000	5,744,074
Merced	2,365,494,000	26,573,857
Stanislaus	1,978,434,000	6,883,883
San Joaquin	1,613,037,000	14,964,771
San Diego	1,461,769,000	1,867,877
Kings	1,292,090,000	35,882,388
Imperial	1,187,254,000	8,088,064

2005 EQIP FUNDING

(Environmental Quality Incentives Program)

USDA released \$444 million in 2005 for EQIP. These funds provide assistance to farmers and ranchers for practices that improve soil, water and air quality, wildlife habitat, and surface and ground water conservation.

California has the nation's largest urban population, and its agricultural production is 59% higher than in Texas, yet our farmers and ranchers receive significantly less EQIP funding for these perennial ag-urban issues.

TOP 10 EQIP RECIPIENTS:

Texas	\$47,810,000
California	27,285,000
Nebraska	20,254,000
Colorado	17,135,000
Minnesota	14,764,000
Kansas	14,763,000
Iowa	13,064,000
Oregon	13,023,000
Mississippi	12,876,000
New Mexico	12,168,000

CALIFORNIA OUTPRODUCES THESE 22 STATES COMBINED, BUT THEY RECEIVED MORE THAN 2.5 TIMES AS MUCH IN 2005 FARM SUBSIDIES.

Value of California Agriculture / 2005 Subsidies:

\$33,788,542,000 / \$649,414,668

Value of 22 Smallest Ag States / 2005 Subsidies:

\$32,647,023,000 / \$1,646,130,451

If Fresno County were a state, it would rank 27th in the U.S in agricultural production. Fresno outproduces 24 states including North Dakota, which received more than **13 times** as much in subsidies.

Monterey County, known as the "Salad Bowl of the World," outproduces seven states combined, but those states received **eight times more** in 2005 subsidies.

San Diego County's agricultural production is greater than that of the State of Wyoming, which received about **33 times more** in 2005 subsidies.

The State of Nevada received more in 2005 farm subsidies than Imperial County, despite the fact that Imperial County produces **more than twice as much** in agricultural value.

State ag values from USDA/ERS; Subsidy data from USDA, compiled by Environmental Working Group (EWG), includes general, conservation, and disaster payments; County ag values from CASS data. ERS data includes the value of services and forestry and therefore may differ from individual states' reporting of their agricultural production value.